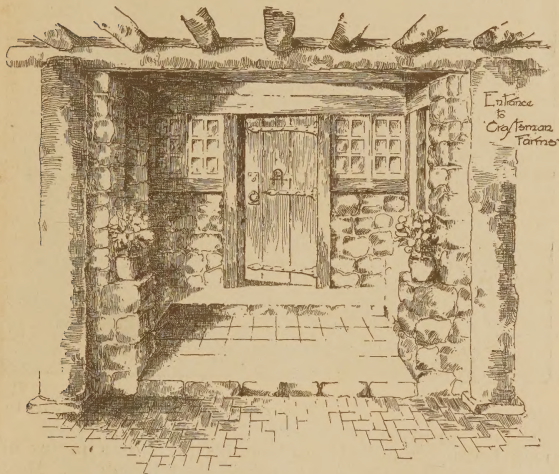
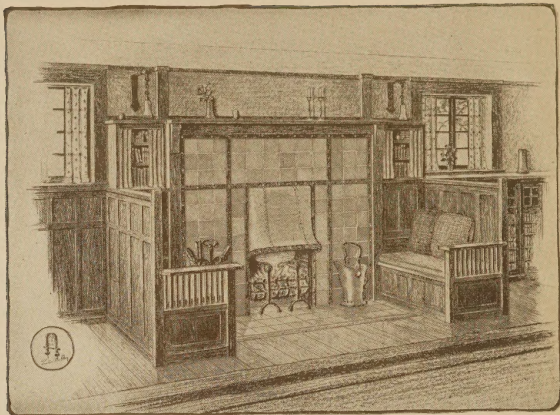


THE CRAFTSMAN HOUSE



AFTER marriage itself, the building of a home is the most important subject that can engage the thoughts of man and wife. For most persons build only once in a lifetime. Whatever its imperfections, the house when completed, must be lived in. Comparatively few persons can afford to correct mistakes at the expense of remodeling or rebuilding. A man's home in fact often represents the savings of years. Not infrequently it anticipates by mortgage the additional savings of years to come. Hence as a man builds ill or well, the finished result of his labors

The Craftsman House



"The hearthstone is always the center of home life." Page 10

may become a mill-stone about his neck or a means of economy and a source of the greatest happiness. Most

families have occupied by turns a number of rented houses and have thus had experience of the discomforts of a house
A HOME OF ONE'S OWN which, like an ill-fitting garment, is not suited to the family needs. Changes

from one rented house to another can be undertaken lightly, since, if the new house should prove unsatisfactory still another change can be made. But the removal to a newly-built home of one's own is usually made in the belief that all such changes are over, and often implies consequences that are practically irrevocable.

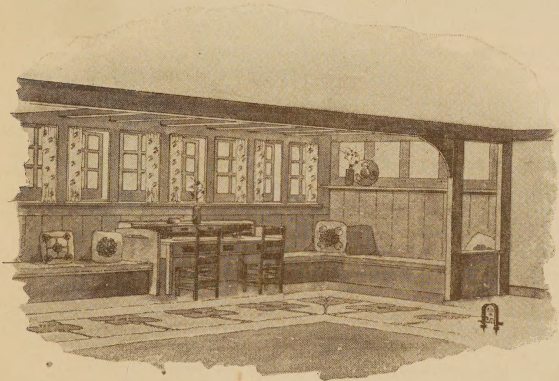
The object of this booklet is to suggest some of the

The Craftsman House

considerations that enter into a wise judgment about house-building. These naturally include the choice of a building lot or site and the location of the dwelling, its design, the selection of materials and modes of construction, the exterior finish, interior furnishings and decorations.

The choice of locality is important. The surroundings of a home react upon the character of the inmates. And a building site is likely to increase or depreciate in value for reasons wholly apart from the character of the house itself. These, however, are local considerations which it is not proper to consider in this place.

But apart from any rise or fall in land values, we feel that a dwelling house, built according to the right principles, should have a cash market value at any time greater than its total cost; should cost little for main-



"Wall spaces occupied by built-in furnishings are altogether delightful." Page 10

The Simplification of Life

tenance, seldom standing in need of repair; and should increase, rather than depreciate in value with the years. The Craftsman House in realizing these principles, may be worth to the owner, in the event of sale, the difference between a loss and a profit, or a saving in the cost of maintenance in the event of the house being occupied by himself, of hundreds or thousands of dollars. And all of this in addition to the fact that the Craftsman House is the embodiment of complete satisfaction to the owner and his family.

The Simplification of Life

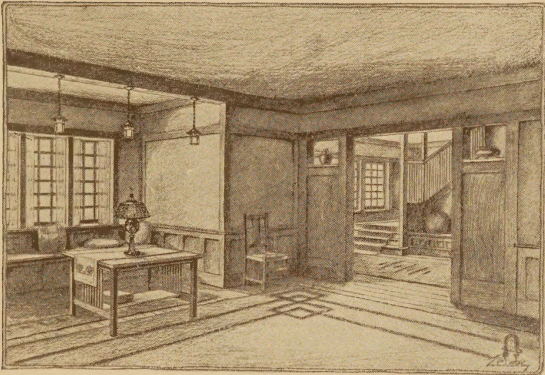
The ruling principle of the Craftsman House is simplicity. In fact the one central thought in all Craftsman activities is the simplification of life and a return to the more democratic modes of thought and conduct of

ECONOMY OF SIMPLICITY

our fathers. Accordingly the exterior lines of the Craftsman House are very simple and its interior divisions are few. One immediate result of vital interest to most builders is the economy thus effected. We believe in stripping off unnecessary ornaments added only for decoration, and eliminating as many partition walls as possible. Thus money is saved to pay for better grades of building materials and more honest workmanship than are now customary, and also to admit of a liberal use of hard woods in interior finish.

Aside from economy, however, our ruling principle of simplicity effects other important results. It gives the Craftsman House a beauty and a dignity that is all its own and reacts most favorably upon the life and character of the inmates. Passing for a moment the beauty of simplicity in design, we feel that its effects on character are worthy of the most careful consideration.

The beginning of life and character lies in the home. Its influence is paramount in shaping our social and



"The division of different rooms by means of the post-and-panel construction." Page 9

National destiny. Our future welfare as a Nation depends upon the kind of surroundings in which our children grow up. And we do not feel that our present lack of principle in building is having the right sort of influence.

The present tendency seems to be to imitate, and if possible, to out-do others. "How do our neighbors expect us to build?" This, according to a celebrated firm of English architects, is the first question to present itself to prospective builders. Probably few persons stop to think to what a large extent they are thus influenced by the notions of others. House plans are too often a compromise, which is satisfactory to neither, between the architect's and owner's ideas. The architect has a store of inspirations taken from the history of architecture in all parts of the

EVILS
OF
IMITATION

The Simplifications of Life

world; the owner, certain conventional ideas more or less imperfectly understood, and impressions from a number of houses that he has seen. One trouble is that suggestions coming thus from many external sources do not go well together. Either there is a kind of sameness that inevitably results from imitation, or a kind of freakiness that comes from straining after originality. The general effect is most often commonplace and uninteresting.

Instead of thus being influenced by external ideas, it is our principle to inquire first, "what are the real needs of a family which a true home must satisfy," and to approach the subject of home-building in the most honest way without reference to the notions of neighbors or to conventional standards of any kind. A Craftsman House is an attempt from this viewpoint to solve the problems of home-building. And the free house plans we issue result from an effort to assist those who build to do this for themselves.

The result of trying to out-do one's neighbors is too often a large house with many rooms elaborately decorated and furnished far beyond the requirements of the family. One of the most harassing burdens of modern life is this useless and cumbersome superfluity. It seems to us a serious menace to our moral and mental standards. A large house with a number of expensively furnished, but closed and unused rooms, breeds a spirit of extravagance and discontent which tends to destroy all the sweetness of home life. The desire for superfluity is equally harmful to men, women and children. The man who is ambitious to provide for his wife and children surroundings equal to the best is burdened beyond his strength. The woman who is trying to keep up the appearances which she believes should belong to her station in life is taxed to the utmost. Worst of all, it starts the children with standards that tend to preclude the possibility of their going

DANGERS
OF
SUPERFLUITY

into housekeeping for themselves in a simple and sensible way. Boys brought up, or finding their sweethearts, in big houses filled with costly articles, purchased for display rather than use, are taught by the silent influence of such surroundings not to marry until they can make a home of like pretensions. Girls assume that if marriage does not mean something equally as luxurious as the home of their childhood, it is not a paying investment for their youth and beauty.

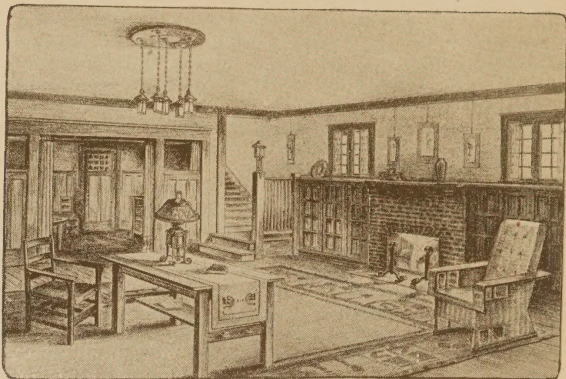
The effect of all this upon society is most unfortunate. We deplore the kind of life that marks a man's face with the haggard lines of anxiety, makes him sharp, unscrupulous, and ambitious only for large profits and rapid rise in the business world. And we also shake our heads over the extravagance and uselessness of our women. We believe that the care and maintenance of big and costly houses breaks up many homes and helps to provide grist for the divorce mill. How much depends on the sort of home a man goes back to when his day's work is done? Surely a house whose prevailing impression is that of having had a great deal of money spent upon it is not the most restful haven from the cares of business life. Nor is it the best school in which to equip young men and women to begin life joyously and to build up homes of their own. Many of our social problems are thus the logical outcome of our standards of living. And these standards are first shaped in the home.

FALSE
STANDARDS
OF LIVING

Craftsman Living Rooms, Their Economy and Beauty

All the Craftsman Houses are accordingly based on the big fundamental principles of honesty, simplicity and usefulness. We feel that the common life of the household should be frankly admitted, that the relation of every part of the interior of the dwelling to the needs of the inmates should be direct and apparent. All the

Craftsman Living Rooms



"A variety of structural features give interest to the general living room." Page 11

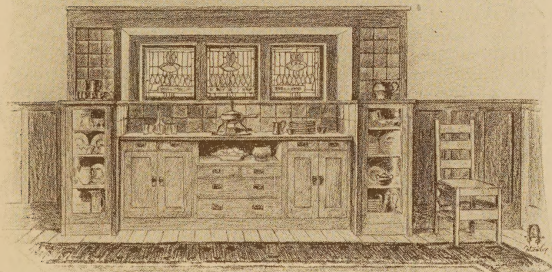
real requirements of the family ought of course, to be adequately provided for, and these include the satisfaction of the sense of beauty. But we know that a completely beautiful and harmonious interior can be realized by the decorative use of structural features and the right treatment of the things that are essential to the life of the household.

The ruling principle of our floor plans is economy of space. Architects and others have often remarked that there is never an inch of space wasted in a Craftsman House. Thus the owner's money is made to go as far as possible, and often a small house properly designed is found to be sufficient for all the requirements of an ordinary family. The effects of economy of space are very much enhanced by throwing together the

ECONOMY
OF
SPACE

general living rooms, including the entrance hall and stairway. The whole lower floor of a Craftsman House often has the effect of one big living room into which one steps directly from the entrance door or from a small vestibule, if the climate seems to require such a protection. Any objectionable effect of bareness is overcome by indicating the divisions between the different rooms by means of the post-and-panel construction, with suitable hangings, and by the addition of pleasant nooks and corners which, without being in any way cut off from the larger life of the room, give a sense of semi-privacy. Thus, no matter how small the house or the individual divisions may be, the general effect is generous, home-like and comfortable.

Built-in furnishings are another means of economy of space and of the owner's money. If properly designed, constructed of the same wood as the other woodwork of



"Built-in furnishings add to the interest and beauty of the rooms." Page 11

Craftsman Living Rooms

the room and finished in the same fashion, built-in furnishings are a part of the house itself and serve to link it closer to the needs of daily life. Like other structural features, they add to the interest and beauty of the rooms. Bare wall spaces are very hard to live with. Walls covered with pictures and draperies put there only

BUILT-IN FURNISHINGS

to cover them are even worse. But wall spaces that are occupied with bookcases, cupboards, built-in seats for windows, fireplaces and other nooks are, in themselves, altogether delightful. They square with another for our principles in being directly related to the life of the household. Furthermore, they make for simplicity by doing away with many pieces of furniture which might otherwise disturb the restfulness of a room and give the appearance of overcrowding. A house, we think, whatever its dimensions, should have plenty of free space unencumbered by unnecessary partitions and over-much furniture.

Another of our principles is that the interior should derive its beauty from a decorative use of structural features, thus saving all cost of purely adventitious ornament.

The big old-fashioned fireplace is perhaps the most distinctive note of a true Craftsman interior. The hearthstone is always the centre of home life, and the fireplace not only serves the practical purposes of affording warmth, light and ventilation, but is also a decorative feature that dominates the entire interior. The very spirit of home seems to be lacking when a register or a radiator tries ineffectually to take the place of a glowing, crackling fire of logs.

And the staircase also, instead of being hidden away in a hall, or treated as a necessary evil, is a structural feature of great beauty. Its ample landing, its interesting construction and its suggestion of leading up somewhere into regions belonging to the inner and individual part of the family life, give it a peculiar charm.



"The fireplace and its surroundings dominate the entire room."

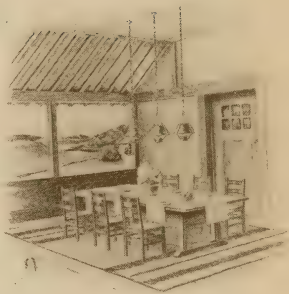
The contrast of such a living room, which affords a natural place for all the business and pleasures of the common family life, to a house cut up into vestibule, hall, reception room, parlor, library, dining room and den, each a separate room overcrowded with pictures and bric-a-brac, is most striking. The small separate rooms with their numerous partitions and large plain wall spaces are not only expensive, but are uninteresting in themselves, and require the addition of bric-a-brac and ornament to make them livable. A variety of structural features on the other hand give interest to the general living room, and the money saved by omission of unnecessary partitions admits of hardwood floors and the generous use of other hard woods in decoration.

DECORATIVE USE OF STRUCTURAL FEATURES

Craftsman Dining Rooms



Shower lights over Craftsman dining table.



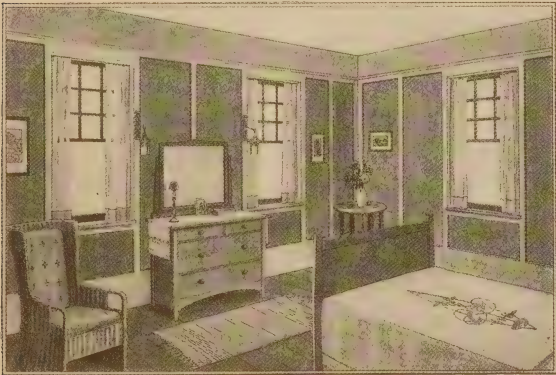
The outdoor dining porch.

Craftsman Dining Rooms

The dining room we like to have either almost or wholly a part of the living room. It is a constant expression of the fine spirit of hospitality to have the dining room closely related to the general living room. And this arrangement is a strong and subtle influence toward simplifying the household machinery. Entertainment thus grows less elaborate and more friendly,—less alien to the regular life of the family and less a matter of social formality. So in many Craftsman Houses, the dining room is merely a nook at one end of the large irregularly-shaped living room. Or it may be separated from the main room only by the merest suggestion of a division,—perhaps a panel of the wainscot set at right angles and posts running up to the beam overhead. The upper part is open with a broad space between. A large screen may be used to shield the dining room from observation and serve at once a useful purpose and as a decorative object of great beauty.

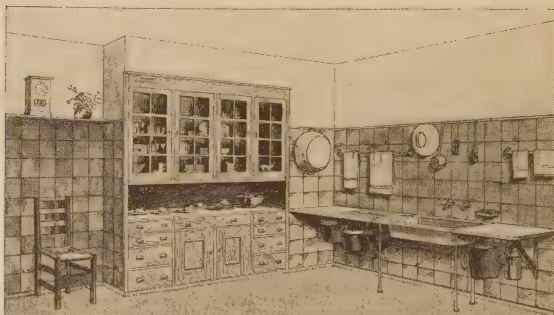
Craftsman Bedrooms

We believe the bedrooms should be small, simply furnished and always fresh and dainty,—each one a sleeping room, a little individual retreat, but nothing more. The upstairs region, in fact, should be conveniently arranged and simply furnished. Nothing lays upon the shoulders of a housekeeper such a burden as large, elaborate and over-dainty bedrooms. Here, as elsewhere, we lay chief stress upon the natural beauty of the walls and woodwork and the added interest of built-in furnishings. Instead of flowing draperies and other perishable things we prefer curtains, bedspreads, dresser, table scarfs and the like of some soft-toned, durable fabric, ornamented with simple, broadly-decorative effects in needlework and applique. And the bedrooms of a Craftsman House reflect in their general atmosphere this idea of durability.



"Each one a sleeping room and individual retreat."

The Craftsman Kitchen



"Fitted with every kind of convenience and comfort."

Craftsman Kitchen

We pay particular attention to one part of the house,—the kitchen. Women, in these days of difficulties with servants and of inadequate and inexperienced help, are perforce learning to depend more and more upon themselves to keep the household machinery running smoothly. It is good that this should be so, for woman is above all things, the home-maker. Our grandmothers were not so far wrong when they taught their daughters that a woman was not making her life the success that could be reasonably expected of her, if she could not keep house and do it well. That housekeeping means drudgery is an idea partly due to our fussy, artificial and over-crowded way of living; partly to our cluttered houses and inconvenient arrangements. We believe in having the kitchen small, so that extra steps may be avoided, and fitted with every kind of convenience and comfort. Among

The Craftsman Kitchen

these are plenty of shelves and cupboards, open plumbing, the hooded range which carries off all odors of cooking, the refrigerator that can be filled from the outside, and everything which saves time, strength and worry. The cook, in these days, is an uncertain quantity. Maids come and go like the seasons. So the wise woman keeps herself fully equipped to take up the work of her own house at a moment's notice. The Craftsman House is built for this kind of woman. The daughters of the house find in it an incentive to take a genuine and



*"Entertainment thus grows less elaborate
and more friendly." Page 12*

Craftsman Interior Decoration

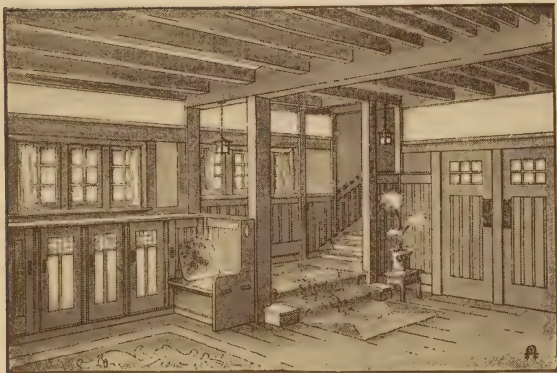
pleasurable interest in household work and affairs. Thus they in their turn, when the time comes, will be fully equipped as home-makers.

Craftsman Interior Decoration and Color Schemes

The saving of money effected by economy of space, omission of unnecessary partitions and ornamentation and the use of built-in furnishings, not only admits of the use of the best grades of building material and thoroughly honest construction, but affords the owner a surplus to be expended in hard wood for interior decoration. The common impression that the lavish use of woodwork which we advocated is a luxury that cannot be afforded by most persons is altogether erroneous. We like the friendly presence of our native woods, and are very sensible of the charms of beams, wainscoting and of built-in furnishings. And we have proved again and again that, if the rooms are properly designed, these effects can be produced at a cost very little, if any, greater than the ordinary commonplace interior.

The beams that support the upper floors, for example, may be frankly revealed with economy rather than additional expense, and finished to correspond with the remainder of the woodwork. Built-in furnishings, as has been said, are economical. The post-and-panel construction and the absence of unnecessary partitions effect a saving. In short, all the principles of a Craftsman House work together to produce a combination of good materials, sound workmanship, durability and beauty, at a cost not greatly exceeding the ordinary methods of construction.

The economy of the right use of wood having been shown, the wise builder will make use of native woods for interior trim to the fullest possible extent. Oak, chestnut, brown ash, rock elm, cypress, red gum and Southern pine are the native woods that are most generally useful. The woods of strong fiber, such as oak,



"The charm of beams, wainscoting and of built-in furnishings." Page 16

chestnut and cypress are best for the rooms in common use, as the living room, hall, dining room, library or den.

Those of finer texture and less decided marking are better for rooms that seem to demand a daintier style of furnishing, as a bedroom or a woman's sitting room. These woods are comparatively inexpensive and easy to obtain. They have a sturdy individuality and beauty which make them permanently satisfying as a part of the home surroundings. They produce an effect of completeness which does away with the need of elaborate decoration and furnishings. Thus they belong peculiarly to our own methods. People often pile unnecessary furniture, pictures and bric-a-brac into their houses because the walls and especially the wood-work are not sufficiently interesting. This point is so im-

OUR
NATIVE
WOODS

Craftsman Exterior Construction

portant that it can hardly be over-emphasized in considering the creation of beautiful and restful home surroundings.

The note of color is the last touch in the perfection of a Craftsman House. And all Craftsman color schemes are based on soft wood tones produced by our own methods of wood-finishing. Each of our native woods

OUR	suitable for interior trim has its own individual quality, color, texture and grain.
EXCLUSIVE	Our object always is to finish these so
WOOD	that the qualities naturally belonging to
FINISHES	the wood are given their full value. Hence they are treated in such a way as to

deepen and modify the natural color, instead of changing it absolutely. The result is a soft, dull surface, perfectly smooth to the touch but preserving all the woody quality. As we use no varnish, the wood never shows a hard, glassy surface nor reflects the light. It seems rather at first to absorb the light that falls upon it and then radiate it in a soft mellow glow of color. This color quality is hard to describe but its presence in the atmosphere of a room is instantly felt. Upon it depends nearly the whole charm of an interior in which wood is used generously. The color treatment necessary to produce the best effects depends entirely upon the kind of wood. As it is difficult for an amateur to use the process which we employ in The Craftsman Workshops for obtaining our distinctive finish upon the different kinds of wood, we have put up in convenient form wood finishes in various tones which are easily applied with a soft brush or cloth.

Craftsman Exterior Construction and Color Effects

Craftsman Houses, as to the exterior, are built in many forms and of many materials. These range from stone, brick and concrete through half-timber construction to clapboards and shingles. Our general purpose is



House designed by the Craftsman Co., showing a foundation adapted to natural irregularities of the site.

to effect a complete harmony between the house and its surroundings as well as throughout the entire interior.

We like especially to link the house as closely as possible with the ground on which it stands. Hence, instead of leveling everything in order to provide a smooth, neatly-squared spot for the house to stand on, we accom-

modate the foundation to natural irregularities of the site. The natural foundation for a building is stone—and split field stone surfaces veined with beautiful rich and varied colors of brown, green-gray and purple tones. Hence we select, whenever possible,

EXTERIOR
COLOR
EFFECTS

the stone that belongs to the locality.

When the walls are of concrete or plaster, we are guided entirely in deciding what tone should be given by the general color effects of the landscape. Sometimes,—as in the South or in California,—the colors best adapted to the surroundings are warm, creamy tones of biscuit or



*Designed by the Craftsman Co.
Built at Nassau, Long Island.*

buff. In other places, a dull green pigment gives the best effect. This we brush on irregularly so that it appears as a surface tone over the gray rather than as a solid color. The gray of the natural plaster seems elsewhere to be most in keeping with the environment.

With walls of clapboards or shingles, the same obtains, although we find that our own treatment of the natural wood, which ripens its own color quality instead of giving it an artificial color, produces the most generally satisfactory results. Most of our shingled houses have walls made of rived cypress shingles. These being split, not sawn, show the natural surface of the wood and are very durable. These shingles under a very simple treatment that we give them, take on beautiful and varied shades of color. Having the color of the natural wood from which the bark has been stripped and which

is darkened and ripened under the influence of the weather, they blend with almost any surroundings.

Market Value of the Craftsman House

The Craftsman House is distinctive and always commands a market price far in excess of the ordinary commonplace dwelling. And this is true for two reasons; inherent merit and the appreciation and demand resulting from our advocacy of these principles in THE CRAFTSMAN. Many Craftsman Houses have been built from our plans throughout the country. These have been described from month to month in the columns of THE CRAFTSMAN and otherwise, until the word "Craftsman" has become a hall mark of quality, so much so that the mere fact of its having been built along Craftsman



*Designed by the Craftsman Co.
Built at Douglaston, L. I.*

Market Value

lines will add several hundred dollars to the value of any dwelling.

The illustrations of these houses shown in "Craftsman Homes" (our book of plans) are worthy of careful study. They cannot, of course, give any idea of the color. But note the lines and proportions of the building, the grouping and placing of the windows, and adjustment of the lines of porches, verandas, pergolas and dormers. Observe how they emphasize the general character of the house. And mark also the less conspicuous but almost equally important structural features that reveal themselves more slowly, but make all the difference between a conventional, commonplace house and one which is beautiful and individual. Every prospective builder should realize that these are the features which insure his property against depreciation from changing



Craftsman brick house, showing treatment of entrance and sleeping porches.

fashions and give it a cash value even at forced sale, in hard times, or under other unfavorable conditions.

Our purpose is to promote the building of Craftsman Houses everywhere because they embody the principles in which we believe and which we are engaged in advocating. And when these principles are writ large in hundreds of completed Craftsman Homes throughout the country, in which the inmates are realizing the Craftsman way of living, we believe that they will exert a powerful influence upon the National character and destiny.

Sources of Information

Persons interested in Craftsman Houses or the methods of House Furnishing or Interior Decoration outlined in this booklet, may obtain additional information from any of the Craftsman publications.

THE CRAFTSMAN LIBRARY consists of the bound volumes (now seventeen in number) of THE CRAFTSMAN Magazine from October, 1901, to March, 1910, inclusive. They may be consulted in the principal libraries, or purchased at three dollars a volume in half leather, or four dollars in full leather.

"CRAFTSMAN HOMES" is a book into which Mr. Stickley has gathered the best of his ideas on house building, interior decoration, furnishing, gardening, home handicrafts and the best methods of finishing such of our native woods as are desirable for interior woodwork and for the making of furniture. This book contains over 200 pages and is illustrated with half tones, line drawings and plans. It is intended to help anyone to plan, build, decorate and furnish a home according to Craftsman principles. The question of planning a garden to harmonize with the house is also considered, and valuable instructions are given in home cabinet making, metal work and needlework.

Sources of Information



*Shingle house designed by the
Craftsman Co.*

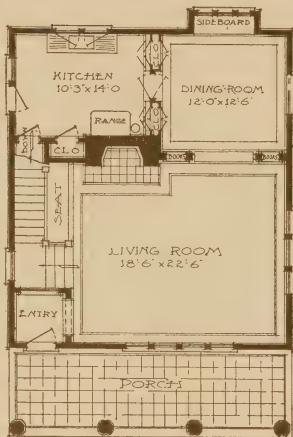
THE CRAFTSMAN MAGAZINE contains each month two or more new plans of Craftsman Houses fully illustrated, and sets forth in detail the Craftsman idea of House Building, Interior Decoration and Furnishing. Published in the interests of the Arts and Handicrafts, it advocates a distinctly National development in Home Building and Home Furnishing. Its department of practical handicraft contains examples and suggestions, useful to all who give personal care to the making of beautiful and individual surroundings, for House Building and Decoration, Home Cabinet-Making, Metal Work, Needlework and the like. Subscription: \$3.00 a year.

CRAFTSMAN FURNITURE CATALOGUE.—“To outline in brief an entire philosophy of life and work is rather an

unusual way of beginning a catalogue of furniture. This, nevertheless, is the first sentence in the catalogue of Craftsman Furniture. If you want beautiful furniture that will last a lifetime and be handed down to your children, send for this catalogue. It contains over 200 reproductions of photographs, and a full description of each piece with exact measurements and prices. It gives a clear idea of the way in which the furniture is made, describes the finish which gives to wood and leather the peculiar quality that identifies Craftsman Furniture wherever seen, and tells how it can be distinguished from imitations. This Catalogue will be sent on receipt of ten cents in stamps.

CRAFTSMAN METAL WORK CATALOGUE contains illustrations, with exact sizes and prices, of metal accessories such as Lamps, Electric Light Fixtures, articles necessary for the Fireplace and many other articles of Hammered Copper, Brass or Wrought Iron. Catalogue will be sent on receipt of ten cents in stamps.

THE WORD "CRAFTSMAN" as applied to all products of the Craftsman Workshops has been registered in the United States Patent Office as our trade mark. This word seems best fitted to express the quality of work-



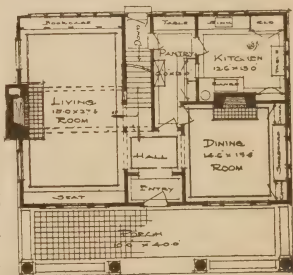
*"First floor plan of
shingle house."*

Sources of Information



*Shingle Cottage designed by
the Craftsman Co.*

manship that distinguishes the furniture and other products of The Craftsman Workshops. And the necessity of maintaining our high standard requires the use of such a trade mark as protection against imitators who copy our models in cheaper form. "Craftsman" Furniture, Metal Work, and Fabrics are known *only* by the name of "Craftsman."



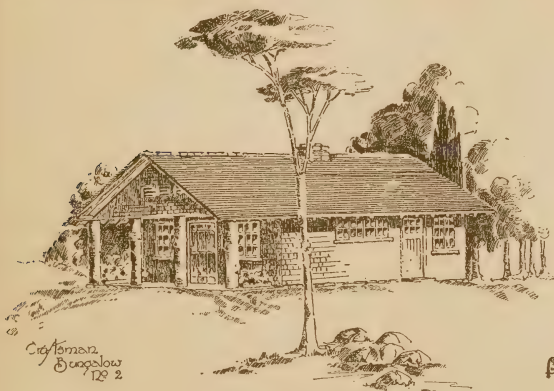
*First floor plan of
shingle cottage*

Sources of Information

As a further means of identification, each piece is stamped with our Shop Mark, a joiner's compass of ancient make enclosing the motto "Als ik Kan." When this shop mark is used on the Furniture the signature "Gustav Stickley" appears just below.

CRAFTSMAN METAL WORK has grown up side by side with the Craftsman Furniture, and has the same characteristics. Our artisans are men, whose knowledge of the old processes, like their love for the work, is inherited from forbears who have been metal workers for generations. They make all manner of metal accessories for our furniture, and these are also for sale to amateur cabinetmakers.

CRAFTSMAN FABRICS AND NEEDLEWORK.—The "Craftsman" Fabrics are, like the furniture and Metal Work,



*"Craftsman Bungalow for Week
End Summer Camp."*

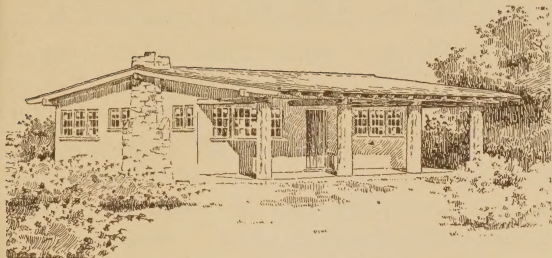
Sources of Information



*"Clapboard Bungalow
designed by Craftsman Co."*

designed first for use and durability. Their beauty comes largely from the completeness with which they meet these requirements, as well as from their effectiveness in finishing the whole decorative scheme of the room. They range from the "Craftsman" canvas, a heavy, rugged material, woven for us in Scotland and suitable for cushions, pillows, portieres, etc., to the thinnest and sheerest fabrics for window-curtains. Between these are Homespun, Plain and Bloom Linens and all manner of plain and figured materials in Silk, Cotton and Wool, suitable for every household use.

Our Needlework has somewhat the character of peasant embroidery. The designs are simple and applique is much used to give the spots of color that serve as accents to the general color scheme and also to bring into harmony the varied colors in a room. We furnish either completed pieces, wrought in the Craftsman Workshops by our own needlewomen, or the stamped material all ready for working, with full directions.



*Cement Bungalow
designed by the Craftsman Co.*

CRAFTSMAN WOOD-FINISHES.—One distinguishing feature of Craftsman Cabinetwork that so far has baffled all attempts at imitation, is our original method of Fuming and Finishing wood. As we use no “filler” all the friendliness of the woody surface remains, the finish merely deepening and modifying the color of the wood. All our furniture is finished in this way.

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